

EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO-BYTES

A Wrap-Up of Issues & Events in EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region
December 2, 1999

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EPA SAMPLES FORMER SITE OF SINKING HOMES

EPA took 230 soil samples in 17 blocks of vacant lots in the Logan section of Philadelphia looking for lead and arsenic contamination. The vacant lots are the former location of 157 homes that were demolished in the 1980s because they sinking. The homes had been built on unstable ash fill in a creek bed. The agency and the neighborhood await the sampling results to determine next steps in a possible cleanup.

MD DEVELOPER TO PAY MORE THAN \$1.86 MILLION TO RESTORE WETLANDS

A federal judge sentenced one Maryland partnership November 22 and simultaneously entered a civil consent decree against the firm and a related entity to resolve the illegal filling of protected wetlands in St. Charles, Md. Interstate General Co. (IGC), a publicly traded partnership, was sentenced to pay a \$1.5 million fine for filling wetlands without a permit during the development of the Dorchester area of IGC's St. Charles, Md. planned community. In the civil settlement, IGC and St. Charles Associates, a related partnership, agreed to pay an additional \$360,000 penalty for filling two other areas in St. Charles, and restore or create approximately 74 acres of wetlands. IGC has already restored approximately 10 acres of wetlands on two other parcels involved in the case.

EPA ROLE KEY IN MOCK TERRORISM ATTACK

November 16-19, a counter-terrorism exercise was held in Ft. Belvoir, Va. Participating agencies included the FBI, DOE, EPA and Virginia Department of Emergency Services. The exercise scenario involved a nuclear weapon from the former Soviet Union smuggled into the United States by terrorists. Washington DC was the hypothetical target for the attack. If the device were to be exploded, EPA would be central in managing the consequences. Disruption of water supply and sanitary sewer and other essential services, many of which are EPA regulated, would lead to potentially greater harm to public health than the weapon itself. In addition, the Federal OSC is uniquely qualified to assist in recovery efforts.

NO FURTHER ACTION AT KANAWHA RIVER PLANT

On November 24, EPA issued a public notice regarding the proposed "no further action" remedy at American Electric Power's Kanawha River Plant facility, located in Glasgow, W.Va. The Kanawha River Plant is used for the generation and transmission of electrical power by coal-fired steam units to communities in the area. All documented releases at this site were adequately addressed by the facility. EPA, in coordination with the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection concluded that the facility had met both Environmental Indicators, namely that migration of groundwater contamination and human exposures have been controlled at the site. EPA is soliciting public comment on this proposal. After the 45-day public comment period, EPA will issue a final remedy decision.

GAS STATION OWNER VIOLATES TANK RULE

During the week of November 22, EPA issued a field citation to Roznowski Sunoco, Ingomar, Pa., for an underground storage tank violation which was discovered during an EPA inspection in February, 1999. The violation was for the failure to properly close an UST system in accordance with the UST 1998 deadline requirements.

FMC CITED IN BALTIMORE FOR WASTE VIOLATIONS

On November 22, EPA issued a notice of violation to FMC, Baltimore for violations discovered during a joint inspection last spring. These violations include: failure to properly mark containers of hazardous waste, failure to properly close those containers, failure to properly maintain its hazardous waste tank, and failure to properly maintain its hazardous waste storage pad. The facility has

15 days to respond.

WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE GETS A FACELIFT

The Federal Highway Administration is moving forward with plans to replace the Woodrow Wilson Bridge which crosses the Potomac River near Alexandria, Va. The existing bridge has five more years of useful life. The preferred alternative consists of two new side-by-side drawbridges located immediately south of the existing six-lane bridge. EPA Region III is a cooperating agency in the development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Substantial environmental impacts are anticipated from the project, including impacts to 58 acres of wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation, stormwater impacts, and disposal of 500,000 cubic yards of dredged material.

PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT PIPELINE COULD THREATEN AQUIFER

On November 22, EPA disapproved a proposed plan to relocate a crude oil pipeline under the Sole Source Aquifer provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Owned by Sun Oil Company, the pipeline which crosses the Philadelphia Airport property is being moved as part of airport expansion activities. Efforts are underway to identify ways to protect the aquifer from a potential release and move the project forward.

TYSON FOODS SUBMITS DRAFT WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT

On November 22, the region received the draft water discharge permit for Tyson Foods, Inc., Accomack, Va. The permit will reduce the discharge of toxic pollutants, including phosphorus and nitrates to Virginia's Eastern Shore Coastal Basin.

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